



For Immediate Release
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CITY LEADERSHIP RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

SEAT PLEASANT, MD. – In January 2020, the Seat Pleasant Police Department responded to an inquiry from the news media concerning allegations of misconduct regarding the background investigation of Chief of Police Devan A. Martin.

These allegations were brought to the attention of the Department by a former City employee, who was disciplined for serious acts of misconduct and is now separated from employment with the City. This former employee reported to the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) allegations that an employee of the Police Department falsified the results of a truth verification examination, administered to the Chief of Police.

Mayor Eugene W. Grant stated, "Upon learning of the allegations, the City & Department launched an administrative inquiry to determine the validity of the claims. At that time, Chief Operating Officer, Jeannelle B. Wallace determined that based on the information, and documentation that she had reviewed and information that was relayed to her from members of the Command Staff, it was abundantly clear there was no wrongdoing on the part of the leadership or the Chief of Police."

The matter was subsequently forwarded to the State Prosecutor's Office of Maryland, at the request of the Maryland Police Training Commission, for investigation. State Prosecutor Charlton T. Howard III, detailed in an official correspondence dated February 11, 2020, "Our subsequent inquiries did not disclose any evidence of criminal misconduct and the investigation was closed. No further action by our office is anticipated at this time."

As required by state statute, individual's undergo rigorous background investigations, including but not limited to a truth verification examination, psychological, drug screening, and medical physical, as well as meet all the minimum requirements established by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. Additionally, the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) is mandated to conduct audits of department hiring standards and background files. The Seat Pleasant Police Department was audited by MPTC in 2019 and is in full compliance.

Chief Martin and the Seat Pleasant Police Department remain committed to the core values of the Department and look forward to continuing to foster a stalwart community-police relationship.

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